

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 10/766,404
Applicants : Karl David McAllister, et al.
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Examiner : Joseph L. Perrin
Docket No. : US20010207

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Commissioner for Patents
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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Sir:

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance issued concurrently with the Notice of Allowance on December 1, 2009. Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner has not accurately described the features of Applicants' independent claims when characterizing Applicants' invention.

Specifically, independent claim 50 recites a method of washing items during a wash cycle in an automatic washer having a wash chamber rotatable about a central axis, the method comprising the steps of: loading items into the wash chamber; supplying wash liquid into the wash chamber; oscillating the wash chamber about the central axis alternately through a clockwise angle of rotation and a counter-clockwise angle of rotation with speed varying oscillations; randomly varying the speed of the oscillations

above and below a base speed periodically during subsequent oscillations in the wash cycle: maintaining the speed varying oscillations to effect less than a one gravity centrifugal force on the items such that the items will tumble in said wash chamber; and randomly varying the angle of rotation traversed by the wash chamber during each clockwise and counter-clockwise rotation above and below a base angle of rotation periodically during subsequent oscillations in the wash cycle.

Independent claim 51 recites a method of washing items during a wash cycle in an automatic washer having a wash chamber rotatable about a central axis, the method comprising the steps of: loading items into the wash chamber; supplying wash liquid into the wash chamber; and oscillating the wash chamber about the central axis alternately through a clockwise angle of rotation and a counter-clockwise angle of rotation with speed varying oscillations; randomly varying the speed of the oscillations above and below a base speed periodically during subsequent oscillations in the wash cycle: maintaining the speed varying oscillations to effect less than a one gravity centrifugal force on the items such that the items will tumble in said wash chamber; and pausing the rotation of the wash chamber for a length of time between each clockwise and counter-clockwise rotation.

Independent claim 53 recites a method of washing items during a wash cycle in an automatic washer having a wash chamber rotatable about a central axis, the method comprising the steps of: loading items into the wash chamber; supplying wash liquid into the wash chamber; oscillating the wash chamber about the central axis alternately through a clockwise angle of rotation and a counter-clockwise angle of rotation with speed varying oscillations; maintaining the speed varying oscillations to effect less than a one gravity centrifugal force on the items such that the items will tumble in said wash chamber; randomly varying the speed of rotation of the wash chamber randomly above and below a base speed of rotation periodically during subsequent oscillations in the wash cycle.

To avoid confusion and to clearly identify the different combinations of the features of Applicants' invention which has been allowed by the Examiner, Applicants respectfully suggest that Applicants' invention be defined as being allowable over the prior art of record as the prior art of record does not disclose or suggest the various combinations of elements set forth separately in independent claims 50, 51 and 53.

Respectfully submitted,

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